INSIST ON
Bartlett-Bacon bills being passed. Insist on knowing where your Representatives in Congress stand. You have a right to know.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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HELP THE MINERS.
Local unions are urged to give prompt financial aid to the striking copper miners of Calumet.

PEONAGE EXISTS IN MINES

Workers Brought Into Strike Zones Under False Pretenses.

BRUTALITY OF GUARDS SHOWN

Copper Miners Labor in Intense Heat Nearly Two Miles Under Ground.

Hancock, Mich., Feb. 28.—Judge Hilton, attorney for the miners, has withdrawn the statement made to the Congressional Investigating Commission that the miners are willing to drop the request for a full investigation of the Christmas disaster at Calumet upon the understanding that counsel for the operators would accept the statement of fact covering the occurrence. Judge Hilton states that the withdrawal of his motion for investigation has resulted in much criticism and misunderstanding. The Miners continued presenting evidence to show that peonage was practiced by the copper managers. Gabriel Mahtisin, an Armenian, testified that he and thirty-seven others were brought to Calumet on a special train. The doors were locked and none of them were permitted to leave the cars. The houses they occupied were heavily guarded at all times and conditions were so bad he drew up a protest, which was signed by the others.

The next day he was taken to the company's offices at Calumet, where the manager asked him why he was creating a disturbance among his countrymen. That night he was beaten by deputies and placed on a train. He refused to leave without first getting his money, and was then taken to jail, where he was confined for forty-seven days. He said he came into the copper country with the understanding that he would get a position as office clerk. He knew nothing of mining. Witnesses gave interesting testimony of the conditions under which the miners labor. It was shown that many of the mines are from 8,000 to 9,000 feet deep; that on the lower levels of these mines the temperature runs up to 100 degrees, and that the mines are very gasey and smoky, especially in the lower mines. Witnesses charged that a system had been practiced for years in which the miners had been ruthlessly robbed; that a perfect system of blacklisting had been maintained, and that jobs in the mines had been sold for as high as $100 each. Congressman Taylor, of Colorado, has ruled that the Commission is vested with authority to inquire into the administration of justice in the copper regions.

Denver, Feb. 28.—The Congressional Commission, investigating the coal strike, has made a tour of the strike zone. It was agreed that two representatives of the operators and two of the miners would accompany the investigators. Frank Wilson, assistant clerk at one of the mines, told the Commission how the operators prepared advertisements purporting to show the high wages paid miners, and on these advertisements placed the names of men who were supposed to be working in the mine, but who were engaged in detective work. Mrs. Delgatto testified that she conducted a boarding house for miners, and that men were held prisoners in the mines by soldiers and forced to work. When she protested against the treatment of the men, she was told that she would be thrown in the guard house. George R. Hall, an undertaker, testified that he had buried three strikers who had been killed by mine guards, and that his establishment had been searched and coffins broken into. Gustav Yeskenski, a Slavish boy, eleven years old, was the center of attraction at Trinidad, where congressmen, attorneys, operators, and unionists crowded around the little fellow to hear his story. In broken English he told of being kicked by a militiaman when he tried to protect his home, his little brothers and sisters. The Commission declined an offer of the operators to allow them to make arrangements for the visit through the mining camps. The Commission stated that they preferred to make their own arrangements.

BROOM MAKERS WIN FIGHT.

Chicago, Feb. 28.—The International Broom and Whisk Makers union announce that an agreement has been reached with the Harris Broom Company, of this city. This concern had conducted a union factory for thirteen years, but informed its employes that it would move its plant to Muskegon, Mich., discard the union label and reduce wages from $23 a week to $16. The workers would be employed as individuals only. The employes refused to accept these conditions and the firm secured nonunionists. The Broom Makers' union asked the organized labor movement throughout Illinois, Indiana and Iowa to aid it, and the unionists in that section sent protests to the firm because of its new policy in denying workers the right to bargain collectively. These protests brought results and the firm has signed an agreement with the union whereby the nonunionists are discharged. The firm has abandoned its attempt to secure cheap labor, and will move back to Chicago and employ its former workers under a union contract. The Broom Makers will now devote all their energies to the strike at Logansport, Ind., where the employes of Sider & Son are attempting to secure fair conditions of labor.

AID TO THE ILLITERATE.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Dr. P. P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education, says that there are 5,000,000 illiterate men and women in this country and many millions barely able to read and write. He declares this condition is a national disgrace, which can be wiped out by the time the next Federal census is taken if co-operation with the States, school officers and educational associations is secured. He asks Congress to appropriate $10,000 to start this work, which would mean a saving of $500,000,000 a year, now lost to the nation because of illiteracy. Dr. Claxton says that the work of his bureau has increased nearly fourfold within the past four years and the demands upon it for help from five to ten fold, while the increase in appropriations has been less than 25 per cent.

BOILERMAKERS ARE FIRM.

Newport News, Va., Feb. 28.—Conferences to settle the strike of the Blacksmiths against the Newport News Shipbuilding company have brought no results, as the men rejected the company's offer to reinstate "a few men" if the strike was declared off. The strike has been on since last October, and was caused by an attempt to introduce piece work. The Metal Trades Department of the A. F. of L. has taken charge of the matter.

PLUMBING INSPECTION

Sioux City, Feb. 28.—The city council has passed an ordinance providing for more rigid inspection of plumbing, and an additional inspector has been appointed. A Retail Clerks' union is under way and the new Label league has been successfully launched.

WHAT THE MINERS GAINED.

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 28.—Because of the continued statements by a paper in this city that the miners gained nothing as a result of the West Virginia strike settlement, a joint statement has been issued by district officials and members of the International Executive Board. The unionists show that for eight years prior to the strike no union organizer dared to go into the Cabin Creek section. The miners could not say their lives were their own, and Baldwin guards were in complete control. The strike resulted in abolishing the guards, wages raised 17 per cent, hours reduced from ten to nine, checkweighman furnished when the men so desire, employes not compelled to patronize company stores, companies to furnish meeting places for the miners and adjustment of disputes by representatives of union and operators. In the New River field, after a campaign that forced unionists to take their lives in their hands, the principle of organization was accepted by the operators and the following conditions were established: Wages increased, semi-monthly pay days agreed to, check weighman to be selected by the miners when they so desire, reinstatement of all employes discharged for agitating, board created to settle disputes, and the right of workers to join the union established. In this field ninety-four new locals have been organized. Attention is also called to the investigation conducted by the United States Senate, the first of its kind in the history of this country and the forerunner of what will, in time, be a universal practice in exposing those who oppress the workers.

HUSTLING OHIO WORKERS.

Springfield, Ohio, Feb. 28.—A. F. of L. Organizer Rich reports much activity by the building crafts unions in this city. The plasterers, plumbers, painters, paperhangers and decorators are arranging to present increased wage scales. The painters will reduce their hours to eight. The plasterers are cited as an illustration of what can be accomplished through trade unionism. Three years ago these workers were unorganized and their wages were set by the employers. Eleven men organized the union, which now includes every Plasterer in the city. Hours have been reduced from ten to eight, a minimum scale of 55 cents an hour has been established, and next year the forty-four-hour week will be enforced. The Retail Clerks and the Barbers' unions have reduced hours on Saturday night, and beginning the first of next year Saturday night work by the clerks will be abolished. The Bakery Workers have perfected an organization, and the machinists and iron molders are setting a good example to other craftsmen because of their activity. Organizer Rich gives much credit for this state of affairs to the labor temple in this city, which was, to the best of his knowledge, the first in the state that was owned by trade unionists.

COMPLAIN OF LONG HOURS.

Brooklyn, Feb. 28.—Unorganized workers employed by the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company say that they are forced to work long hours in violation of the state labor laws. It is stated that the company compels its motormen and guards to work ten hours on trains and two hours a day at the car barns, for which they receive no pay. The men declare that the fear of being discharged makes it impossible for them to complain, and that in some cases they are forced to work even longer than twelve hours. Last July they were given a 5 per cent increase, but this has been taken from them by changing the working schedule which now forces them to either prepare their trains on their own time or leave the terminal and do the necessary work en route, thereby endangering passengers. The fifteen minutes formerly given them to prepare their trains has been taken from them. Protests on existing conditions have been ignored by the company's officials.

OPPOSE STATE POLICE.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 28.—Organized labor in this state is aroused over the proposal of Senator Ramsey, who has introduced a bill in the state legislature to create a state constabulary or police patterned after the one in Pennsylvania. A state chief of police at a salary of $4,000 will have charge of the force, and an appropriation of $200,000 is asked for. The men will enlist for a term of two years. Officers of the State Federation of Labor are calling on trade unionists and sympathizers to express their views on this bill, which is receiving the support of large corporations. The author of the bill is declared to be "opposed to anything that will favor the toilers."

JOIN REGULAR MOVEMENT.

Baltimore, Feb. 28.—The Lithuanian tailors of this city have severed their connections with a so-called "revolutionary" union, and have joined the United Garment Workers, affiliated to the American Federation of Labor. This action was taken without a dissenting vote and indicates the views now held toward the A. F. of L. by these and other nationalities in this city. The garment workers have also arranged with their employers to make an equal division of work during the dull season and end the practice of forcing some employes into complete idleness at this time.

A. K. C. "FORWARD."

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 28.—Nearly 200 unionists, representing practically every local in this vicinity, responded to the invitation of a committee of seven appointed by the Industrial Council to start an educational and organizing campaign in this city. It is the intention to hold at least one meeting in every precinct of the city during the next two months. Trade-union literature will be distributed and a general organizing movement conducted.

DAN CUPID RAIDS UNION.

Boston, Feb. 28.—It is whispered that little Dan Cupid is exceptionally active among members of the Cigar Factory Tobacco Strippers' Union in this city and that a larger number of members than in any previous year will withdraw from the organization. The union has a membership of about 900, and every spring the average loss is 100 girls, who are given honorary withdrawal cards.

HOLDS CITY LIABLE.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 28.—The State Supreme Court holds that a municipality in this state that maintains a library is liable for damages where an employe injures another in transporting books by automobile from one branch to another. The case came before the court from Chicago.

BARBERS MAKE GAINS.

Los Angeles, Feb. 28.—The barbers' union reports progress as a result of its organizing campaign in this city. The latest to come into the fold is a large eight-chair shop that has just signed an agreement with officers of the union.

ACCEPT STATE PLAN.

Columbus, O., Feb. 28.—Employers in this state are accepting the new workmen's compensation act. Figures show that 9,331, employing 507,350 workers, are now subscribers to the state insurance fund. Their total contributions to date amount to nearly $2,000,000, one-half of which has been received since the first of the year. The employers who have decided to carry their own insurance number 537. These are large employers, and many of them, the board reports, maintain safety and first-aid-to-the-injured organizations. Under the law an employer can provide his own insurance with the consent of the state board. It is estimated that there are about 15,000 employers, subject to the compensation act, who have not yet either subscribed to the fund or made arrangements to carry their own risks, but under the provisions of the law, the employes of such defaulting employers are under compensation, and, in the event of their injury or death, the amount of compensation due them may be determined by the industrial commission and recovered from the employer by civil action, with an added penalty of 50 per cent, or, if the injured employe desires, he may maintain a civil action directly against his employer for damages and the employer is not entitled to the usual common law defenses.

EXPLOSIONS IN COAL MINES.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The mines that are most liable to cause explosions are those that make some gas and yet are not pronounced gaseous mines by state authorities, says Director Holmes, of the National Bureau of Mines, in his third annual report. Mine operators have not fully recognized the great dangers of using "mixed lamps"—that is, open lamps and safety lamps—in these mines. According to Mr. Holmes, last year witnessed no explosions in mines that employed safety lamps only. He says the remedies for gas explosions are to employ either oil-burning safety lamps or portable electric lamps that have passed the safety requirements of the bureau and have been approved as permissible; and to render the coal dust inert, either by thoroughly wetting it by extensive watering, or by humidifying the mine air, or, where water is scarce, by scattering plenty of clay or rock dust on all projections and timbers on the floor. This mode of using rock dust has been recently adopted in France, and to a smaller extent in England, but has been used only in a few mines in this country.

STRIKE AT HOTEL ENDS.

Boston, Feb. 28.—After a short strike stationary firemen employed at the Hotel Vendome returned to work, the management agreeing to the union's eight-hour schedule. Previously the firemen had worked a twelve-hour day. The men will receive the same wage for the shorter work day, and more firemen will be employed. Officers of this union also announce that the Boston Opera House firemen have been granted an increase of $3.50 a week. This rate now equals the standard union rate. The new schedule of working conditions has been agreed to by ninety-nine per cent of the employers. These gains are the result of a vigorous organization campaign which has brought the membership up to 1,200. Efforts are now being made to increase wages for firemen, oilers, watertenders, screen men and helpers employed by State commissions.

STATE LIFE INSURANCE.

Portland, Feb. 28.—State life insurance promises to be an issue in Oregon in the very near future. State Insurance Commissioner Ferguson, who has been investigating the Wisconsin plan, has reported to the governor his belief that this system is practicable. He says: "Of the total expense of old line companies, more than one-half goes to agents in commissions. Under the Wisconsin plan policy holders are saved this expense. Applications are received by clerks and treasurers of counties, of cities, of towns, and by officials of banks which receive state deposits, and no paid agents are employed." Mr. Ferguson says that employers in Wisconsin are favorable to that law, which was adopted October 27, and they are supporting the enactment, in some cases advancing their employes money to make the first year's payment.

WILL INITIATE LAWS.

Lansing, Mich., Feb. 28.—Officers of the Michigan Federation of Labor have completed the work of mailing to every section of the state, initiatory petitions calling for changes in the state laws relative to the eight-hour work day and the right to regulate the hours of work for men as well as women and children. At its convention last year resolutions calling for the petitions were adopted by the state branch. An effort will be made to change the constitution whereby the legislature will be empowered to regulate the hours and working conditions of men in the state. Another amendment provides for a universal eight-hour work day in every branch of labor in the state.

U. S. ASKED TO MEDIATE.

Portland, Ore., Feb. 28.—The Federal Board of Mediation and Conciliation has been requested to mediate differences between the Oregon & Washington Railroad and Navigation Company and different classes of its employes, who have voted to go on strike. Assistant Commissioner Hanger is now endeavoring to bring both sides together, and it is hoped his efforts will be successful.

SAVANNAH WORKERS ALERT.

Savannah, Feb. 28.—"Organizing Day" has stimulated interest in the trade union movement. The leather workers are standing firm for a nine-hour day and a local of Stage Employes has just been organized. The mill workers are being organized by the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

TO ORGANIZE GIRLS.

Philadelphia, Feb. 28.—The United Textile Workers are organizing the knitting mills in this vicinity, and Organizer Thomas Regan reports that he is meeting with success. At large mass meetings the girls are pledging adherence to the cause of trade unionism.

FOR STATE USE.

Sacramento, Feb. 28.—The warden of the Folsom State Prison has perfected preliminary plans for a manufacturing plant at that institution. Convicts will be taught useful trades and the manufacture of furniture for use by the State in its institutions will be begun.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Corsicana, Tex., Feb. 28.—Printers in this city have raised wages $1.50 a week. The agreement runs for a period of five years, and includes better working conditions.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION COUNCIL WASHINGTON

SIGNS EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The District of Columbia eight-hour bill, passed by both Houses, has been signed by President Wilson, and is now a law. The bill provides that no female shall be employed in any manufacturing, mechanical, or mercantile establishment, laundry, hotel, restaurant, telegraph, or telephone establishment, office, or in any other express or transportation company in the District for more than eight hours in any one day or more than six days of more than forty-eight hours in any one week, and that no female under eighteen years of age shall be employed before 7 o'clock in the morning or continue after 6 o'clock in the evening. Provision is also made for a record of wages paid these workers, and these records shall at all times be open to three inspectors, who will be appointed to enforce the law. Senator La Follette introduced the bill in the Senate, and Congressman Peters introduced the bill in the House of Representatives.

CONDEMN LOW WAGES.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 28.—"No woman can live properly and be self-sustaining on a wage of $5 or $6 or even $7 a week, yet we find thousands of women receiving these amounts," said Lieutenant Governor Wagner, chairman of the State Factory Investigating Commission, which has just reported to the legislature the results of its investigation in the confectionery and paper box industries of the state. It is shown that the general wage for girl confectionery workers in Greater New York is $5 a week. Male workers receive between $8 and $14. More than one-half receive less than $10 a week. One-half of the women are paid less than $6 a week, while less skilled ones receive as low as $4.50 a week. Deductions for absence and fines and lack of employment during slack periods lower the incomes. In the paper box industry the majority of women workers are rated under $6.50 a week. More than 700 girls under 18 earn less than $5. "These figures that we have obtained up to the present," said Chairman Wagner, "show conclusively the necessity for an improvement in wages." The commission recommended that the hours of labor of children between 14 and 16 years of age, in mercantile establishments, be limited to 48 hours a week, instead of 54 hours, as at present, and that the provision limiting the hours of women in second class cities to 54 hours a week be extended to all the cities of the state. Drastic changes in labor law penalties are favored. The maximum penalty was increased for a first violation, from $50 to $500 and a prison sentence of 10 days made possible; for a second offense the penalty was raised from $250 to $2,500.

A COAL ROAD'S PROFITS.

Philadelphia, Feb. 28.—At a hearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission in this city it was shown that the New Jersey Central Railroad made a profit of more than 62 cents a ton above the cost of transportation, which amounted to a fraction over 59 cents. The latter figures applied to a haul of 160 miles and included assembling cost, line haul, terminal cost and return of empty cars. In the case of the Reading Railway it was shown that it paid to the Reading Company since 1896, $17,297,881 to replace equipment it leased from the Reading Company, which had an original cost of $11,205,787. In addition the exhibits showed that the railway company paid the Reading Company 8 per cent on $18,000,000 on equipment leases and from 4 to 6 per cent on an additional $17,000,000 for equipment leases. The commission is holding hearings for the purpose of deciding whether certain hard coal freight rates are reasonable or excessive.

UNIONISTS REOPEN FIGHT.

Trenton N. J., Feb. 28.—The anti-injunction bill, introduced in the State Legislature by Assemblyman Quinn, president of the State Federation of Labor, has aroused New Jersey manufacturers, who are planning vigorous opposition. The trade union movement is just as wide awake, and the knowledge they gained through their partially successful fight last year, when the lower House adopted this bill, will be of service to them. The bill covers labor's well-known opposition to present injunction practices and provides that no injunction shall issue unless necessary to prevent injury for which there is no remedy at law. The manufacturers claim the bill refuses to treat the right to work as a property right, which would make it practically impossible for them to secure injunctions in labor disputes. To this the unionists agree, and answer that the criminal laws of New Jersey, with their trial by jury guarantees, are enough protection for any citizen.

A DEFECTIVE COMPASS.

Philadelphia, Feb. 28.—In the investigation before United States officials on the collision between the steamers Monroe and Nantucket, in which James O'Connell, vice president of the American Federation of Labor, nearly lost his life, Capt. Johnson, of the sunken Monroe, testified that he navigated the boat with a steering compass that deviated as much as two degrees from the standard magnet compass. He said this was correct enough to run the ship, and that the compass had not been adjusted in the year he was master of the boat.

TO ENFORCE LABOR LAWS.

Bismarck, N. D., Feb. 28.—The Bismarck Typographical union has appointed a legislative committee to work with a like committee of the State Federation of Labor to secure the appointment of a deputy commissioner of labor. It is believed the appointment of this officer will assist in a stricter observance of labor laws. It is also intended to urge the establishment of a law providing for the inspection of mines, factories and workshops.

FEW UNION PRINTERS IDLE.

Worcester, Mass., Feb. 28.—The New England Typographical Union, composed of locals in that section, announces that out of 4,672 members of their International, only ninety-seven are actually unemployed, and that business throughout the jurisdiction is brisk, with good job printers in demand.

CANAL FORCE TO BE REDUCED.

Panama, Feb. 28—Reductions of the Panama Canal force are pending because of the near completion of this work, and the permanent force will become effective on or about April 1. The salary of employes shall not exceed 25 per cent of the salary paid for the same or similar service to persons employed by the government in the United States. All persons who receive over $75 a month or over 40 cents per hour must be citizens of the United States or of the Republic of Panama, and such citizens will be given preference for employment in all grades. Aliens will be employed in cases of emergency and they will be replaced as early as practicable. Eight hours will be a day's work, with time and one-half for overtime for Sundays and holidays. This does not include persons employed on a monthly or annual basis. After three years' service, employes who are citizens of the United States will be entitled to free transportation to any port in the United States upon termination of service. In case of illness or injury they will receive free medical care and attendance in a hospital. Annual leave privileges will be granted. These privileges are divided into three classes and range from twenty to thirty days each year. An extra privilege of seven days is granted employes who travel outside the tropics.

STREET RAILWAY IS LIABLE.

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 28.—The Supreme Court of this state has held that an employe of a street railway company riding on a free pass is a passenger, and that he can hold the company for damages in case of accident. This decision was made in the case of the Indianapolis street car company who was sued by the heirs of a street car conductor who lost his life through the negligence of a motorman. The conductor was returning from work and was riding on a transportation slip upon which was printed the following: "This ticket is issued to the person using the same, only on account of being an employe of the company, and is voluntarily accepted as a gratuity and in consideration thereof no claim is made against the Indianapolis Traction and Terminal Company for any death caused or injury to person or property received while using same." The court held that the deceased was not riding on a free pass; that it was fair to presume that the pass was a portion of the wages paid, and that there being a consideration for the pass the company could not stipulate against the negligence of its servants.

THE INDUSTRY SHOULD PAY.

Sacramento, Cal., Feb. 28.—The Industrial Accident Insurance Commission has published a decision that it is illegal to reduce wages to meet the cost of insurance against the compensation risk on employes. The commission learned that some employers intended to assess their employes for amounts that are in excess of the amounts required for liability insurance, which would mean a profit for the employers above all cost of insurance. The Commission says: "The theory of compensation is to transfer the strain from the injured to the industry. The best method is for the employer to carry along the premium into the cost of the business, and this will be done in many occupations, and, as time goes on, it will be considered one of the charges of production that should rightly be added to the cost of production." Friends of the law declare that if certain employers intend pursuing their policy it will be checked by adding drastic amendments to the law.

TO SPREAD LABOR'S AIMS.

Baltimore, Feb. 28.—President Ferguson, of the Federation of Labor, has appointed an Educational Committee for the purpose of making public the theory of the trade union movement, as a great many of the misunderstandings between employer and employe could be obviated if a better knowledge obtained in the minds of the employer as to the aims and rights of his workers. President Ferguson contends that false notions of what union men claim are responsible for a great deal of work going into nonunion hands which would be given to union men if this false estimate of organized labor did not exist.

WILL SUPPORT OFFICIALS.

Sacramento, Cal., Feb. 28.—The Immigration and Housing Commission has been promised the support of the E. Clemens Horst company, extensive hop growers, in the proposed clean up of California labor camps. In a letter to the Commission, President Horst writes: "We would especially ask you to give us information as early as possible as to what may be the requirements, both with regard to housing or tenting and sanitation, so that we may make the necessary arrangements on all of our hop ranches to fully comply with the commission's requirements."

CHANGED THEIR MINDS.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Feb. 28.—The Toronto Power Co. and the Westinghouse Co. notified their Carpenters that wages would be reduced 5 cents per hour. Several conferences resulted in a withdrawal of the announcement, and unionists in this city are using this incident among the unorganized to prove the value of trade unionism.

ACTIVE IN NEW YORK TOWN.

Cohoes, N. Y., Feb. 28.—Textile workers are in an active organizing campaign in this city. Unions of Knit Goods Winders and Knit Goods Seamers, with large memberships, have been formed, and a union of Folders and Press Room Employes is under way. Employment in the textile mills is steady.

TRAINMEN GIVEN INCREASE.

Chicago, Feb. 28.—Wage increases that amount to $100,000 annually will be paid Chicago, Burlington & Quincy trainmen as a result of an arbitration decision. The board held hearings for three months. Other questions that involve better working conditions were also decided in favor of the employes.

CARRIED TO STATE BOARD.

Boston, Feb. 28.—Officers of the Awning, Shade and Drapers' Union have been conferring with the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation on the question of adjusting a strike which was caused by non-union notices in the various shops. The employers want to treat with their workers as individuals and a walk out resulted.

CAR STRIKE IS SETTLED.

Montpelier, Vt., Feb. 28.—The street car strike, which has been on for the last few weeks, has been declared off and the men have returned to work. It was agreed that an arbitration board would adjust working conditions and wages now in dispute between the company and its employes.

PLEA TO PENCION CLERKS.

Washington, Feb. 28.—"I can itemize every cent I have spent for the last seventeen years. I have not had a salary increase in nine years, and I have not been able to save one cent in ten years. I have two children to whom I hope to give a decent education, but the struggle is almost too great. You have kept us with salaries based on conditions of thirty-nine years ago, and still demand that a government clerk shall make a presentable appearance," said Daniel Goldschmidt, a clerk in the New York postoffice, while urging pensions for clerks before the Committee on Reform in the Civil Service. The speaker favored a plan that would retire clerks from the government service at sixty-five years, with a contributory feature. There are at present 6,523 clerks who would be retired under this law. William E. Russell, president of the United States Civil Service Retirement Association, favored the contributory pension plan. He said: "The time has come when Congress will have to meet this issue. The average government salary in Washington is $1,079, and the average all over the country is $948." The speaker gave instances of where employes in the New York customs service work from eleven to seventeen hours a day. It would appear that the majority of the committee favors some sort of a retirement plan. Speaker Clark, of the House of Representatives, is quoted as favoring such scheme. He says: "The trouble is that the young men in the service do not want to help bear the cost of retirement pensions for the older men. It will take a lot of work to prepare such a plan that will be acceptable."

ABOLISH CONVICT LABOR.

Chicago, Feb. 28.—The convict contract labor system, in vogue at the House of Correction, known as "the Bridewell," will be abolished May 1 next. City officials have taken this action after repeated requests by the Chicago Federation of Labor. For twenty-one years contractors have controlled the labor power of the inmates of this institution. Prior to 1909 the wage rate was 25 cents a day. Since then 50 cents a day was paid in the broom factory and much less in the purse factory. The contractors were given free heat, light, power and rent. A committee of the Federation of Labor began an active campaign some months ago, and demanded that the system be abolished and that the prisoners be employed in the manufacture of commodities needed for city use. It was also urged that more convicts be employed in the stone quarry supplying crushed stone for city use and in the disposal of city garbage. As a result of this agitation a subcommittee of the City council's finance committee has announced that all contractors would be notified to vacate their plants at "the Bridewell," by May 1 and that the inmates would be employed as suggested by the Federation of Labor.

SEAMEN ASK QUESTIONS.

Washington, Feb. 28.—In a circular issued by the International Seamen's union, in which the La Follette seamen's bill is urged, the following questions are asked: "Have you written your Congressman and Senators about passing the Seamen's bill? Did you have any acquaintances or relatives on the Monroe, recently sunk off the Virginia coast? How would you like to be one of fifty persons on a scaffold lowered from the roof of a skyscraper by men picked from the streets and knowing nothing about tackle? Or would you insist upon having Structural Iron Workers on this work? Do you think England, Germany and France ought to have their laws executed in our ports, or do you think we should make our own laws? Do you think it proper to lower immigration rates by sinking ocean steamers, or would you rather pass proper laws to restrict immigration and make vessels fairly safe? If you have too many children and find it hard to support them, why not send them on excursion steamers?

AGAINST CHILD LABOR.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 28.—Senator Egan, of Hudson county, has introduced a bill in the state legislature which will make it unlawful to employ a child under sixteen years of age for more than eight hours in any one day, or for more than forty-eight hours in any one week, and does not allow children to work on Sunday. Another bill by the same author provides for compulsory education of children, while still another makes officers and agents for any corporation disorderly persons who violate the provisions of the child labor law.

STEREOTYPERS ADVANCE.

Vancouver, Feb. 28.—Stereotypers in Victoria and this city have signed an agreement with their employers which provide for a $4.50 day and night rate for journeymen and $31 a week for foremen. The eight-hour day is conceded, with overtime and holidays time and one-half. Apprentice rates are agreed to, and range from $1.50 the first year to the union scale in the fifth year. The apprentices shall enjoy the same working conditions as journeymen. A two years' contract is signed.

CONDUCTORS RAISE WAGES.

Bethlehem, Pa., Feb. 28.—Wages for conductors have been increased, on an average, from $3.62, the old rate, to $4 per day, on the Lehigh Valley Railroad as a result of conferences between officials and representatives of the Order of Railway Conductors. The new schedule, which has just been agreed to, is made effective dating from January 1 of this year.

ENGLISH HAS SLIGHT LEAD.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Of the total 4,669,162 white population in New York City in 1910, the English-Celtic languages were the mother tongue of 21 per cent, according to statistics just made public by the Bureau of Census. Next came the Yiddish-Hebrew with 19 per cent; Germany, 18 per cent; Italy, 12 per cent; Poland, 3 per cent, and France, Sweden and Magyar, 1 per cent each.

NEW UNIONS IN TOPEKA.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 28.—The Flour and Cereal Mill Packers' union has been organized in this city. As there is no international or national union in this industry, the new local is chartered direct by the A. F. of L. A union of Upholsterers has been formed, and the Stationary Firemen, Laundry Workers and Broom Workers are discussing unionism.

MAY NOT STRIKE.

Lancaster, Pa., Feb. 28.—Cigarmakers in the First and Ninth revenue districts may not strike to enforce their demands for higher wages, as many manufacturers are granting the requests. While the strike ballot has not been polled, those already counted indicate a stro[illegible] strike sentiment if wage increases [illegible] agreed to.

LABOR AND SHERMAN LAW

Western Newspaper Takes Strong Editorial Position.

SHOULD DEFINE LABOR'S RIGHTS

Congress Urged to Carry Out Original Intent of Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

San Francisco, Feb. 28.—In a leading editorial, the Bulletin of this city comments as follows on the principle of the Bartlett-Bacon bill to relieve labor from trust classification through court interpretation:

"There are two kinds of law—those which allow, compel or forbid certain acts, and those which try to explain the first kind. An important statute is a kind of Terra Incognita, around which boundaries must be run, and whose geography has to be mapped out with infinite pains. Such a statute is the Sherman anti-trust act, which is to be rather elucidated than modified by the Wilson trust bills. There is one division of this law which does not seem to be covered by any announced policy from the White House, but which particularly needs clearing up. This division is the application of the law to labor unions and farmers' organizations. It has been stated that under the strict provisions of the Sherman act few national labor unions could escape technical liability to prosecution. That such an extension never was the intent of the law is certain. If the law should be so extended the result would be the annexation of new and debatable territory, and would thus have the significance of an entirely new law.

"Now, it is certain that no Congress will ever venture deliberately to pass a law putting under the ban organizations upon which the security and prosperity of labor in this country is dependent. The present Congress has shown its inclinations in that respect by tacking on to the sundry civil appropriations bill a clause stipulating that none of the money appropriated for the Department of Justice shall be used for prosecutions of labor unions or farmers' organizations under the Sherman act. But this is only a temporary and awkward expedient. What is needed is a statutory provision in which shall be clearly declared the right of labor to organize into national bodies and to use every legitimate means to better its condition. Without a law like this employers will have in their hands a weapon giving them a frankly unfair advantage. There are about 2,000,000 union men in the United States. There are several millions more whose sympathies unite them closely to organized labor. The welfare of the whole nation is in no small degree dependent upon the efficiency, and indirectly upon the prosperity and well-being of these workers. Here is an 'interest' second to none in importance, whose rights, privileges and exemptions ought to be closely recognized by the national lawmakers."

Trade unionists and sympathizers are urged to write their Senators and Congressmen on behalf of the Bartlett-Bacon bill, which is intended to remove organizations of working men and women from trust classification and also regulate the issuance of injunctions in industrial disputes. Write to your representatives today.

TO CHECK IMMIGRATION.

Berlin, Feb. 28.—The International Federation of Trades Unions is again actively interested in the question of non-organized Italian workers who immigrate to other European countries and are used as strikebreakers. During the years 1905-1912, 881,000 of these immigrants entered the countries of Germany, France, Austria-Hungary and Switzerland. In 1912 the German Masons' Federation decided to carry on an annual winter propaganda campaign in Italy and speakers went to the villages where most of the immigrants came from and urged a greater display of solidarity. This was followed by other trade unions, and Secretary Legien, of the International Federation of Trades Unions, reports that "it has been possible to somewhat arrest the strikebreaking tendency of the Italian, but that it has been impossible to win over the Italians to the organizations." A recent conference in Milan, participated in by unionists from Germany, Austria and Switzerland, agreed on a plan to regulate immigration from Italy.

MANY SWEAT SHOPS IN CITY.

Philadelphia, Feb. 28.—Inspectors connected with the State Department of Labor and Industry report that 200 cases have been found in the down town section where tenement houses and dwellings have been converted into small garment factories and sweatshops and were employing outside help in defiance of the terms of their license, which permits only the parents and their children to work in their homes. The law of 1905 permits home work from factories and contractors. To maintain sanitary conditions outsiders are forbidden to work in these places unless a permit has been secured from the state authorities. During the garment workers' strike, union officials complained that this law was violated and investigations followed. Officials state that no more workshop permits will be granted to those intending to carry on business in their own homes, and employers who do not have on file in their offices the employment certificates of minors will be prosecuted.

CONVICTS ARE ABUSED.

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 28.—A grand jury report scores the Jackson County Convict Farm. It is stated that conditions of such shocking proportions have been found to exist that for the sake of suffering humanity and the protection of prisoners some steps must be taken. Instances of cruel treatment of the prisoners were cited in the report, which, to use the jury's words, "Would chill the blood of civilized persons hearing it." It is further charged that sanitary conditions were of the worse; that prisoners were charged with clothes and medicine and their terms extended, and that they were forced to work when sick or physically unable and subjected to wicked, cruel and inhuman punishment.

LABOR TEMPLE CLEAR OF DEBT.

Toronto, Feb. 28.—The Labor Temple Company announces that the labor temple in this city is now free from debt, and the home of Toronto trade unionists is free of all encumbrances. Wages have been increased and many improvements have been made during the past year, and the ledger shows a balance on the right side of [illegible].

FAVOR UNION LABOR.

Edwardsville, Ill., Feb. 28.—In advertising for bids for the new courthouse the County Board of Supervisors have requested contractors to employ only union